

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/430,045

Examiner

Dustin Nguyen

Applicant(s)

CROMWELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/26/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19, 36-45, 52-69, now renumbered as 1-47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' attorney, Mr. Anthony Josephson, on 11/30/2007.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 12, 16, 18, 36, 38, 43, 52 and 60 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to a sequence of audio segments accessible by an audio server comprising:

(a) receiving a request for playing the sequence of audio segments, wherein the sequence of audio segments comprises at least portions of network-related announcements to be played to a recipient, the sequence of audio segments being identified by an audio identifier;

(b) locating, in an audio server database, the sequence of audio segments based on the audio identifier; and

(c) playing the sequence of audio segments to the recipient so that the recipient is apprised of at least one network-related announcement.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein playing the sequence of audio segments includes transmitting audio data packets to a gateway over a packet-based network, and wherein the gateway plays the sequence of audio segments.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to stored audio data segments corresponding to variables comprising:

(a) receiving a request to play a sequence of audio data segments, the sequence of audio data segments adapted to convey a network-related announcement to a recipient, the request including a variable; and

(b) determining whether the variable is an embedded variable;

(c) in response to determining that the variable is an embedded variable, resolving a sequence of audio data segments containing the variable and resolving the variable; and

(d) playing the sequence of audio data segments including the variable.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein receiving a request to play the sequence of audio data segments includes receiving a request including a variable and a selector and resolving the variable includes identifying a set containing an audio data segment to be played.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein receiving a request to play the sequence of audio data segments includes receiving a request including a variable and a selector,

wherein resolving the variable includes identifying a set containing an audio data segment to be played.

36. (Currently Amended) A sequence processor for providing access to a sequence of audio segments accessible by an audio server, the sequence processor comprising:

(a) means for receiving a request for playing the sequence of ~~stored~~ audio segments, wherein the audio segments comprise at least portions of network-related announcements to be played to a recipient, the sequence of audio segments being identified by an audio identifier;

(b) means for locating, in an audio server database, a provisioned sequence of audio segments based on the audio identifier; and

(c) means for playing the sequence of audio segments to the recipient so that the recipient is apprised of at least one network-related announcement.

38. (Currently Amended) The sequence processor of claim 36 wherein the means for playing the sequence of audio segments includes means for transmitting the audio segments to a gateway over a packet-based network, and wherein the gateway plays the sequence of audio segments.

43. (Currently Amended) A variable processor for providing access to stored audio data segments corresponding to variables, the variable processor comprising:

(a) means for receiving a request to play a sequence of audio segments, the sequence of audio segments adapted to convey a network-related announcement to a recipient, the request

including a multilanguage variable specifying a language in which the audio sequence is to be played;

(b) means for resolving the multilanguage variable into at least one audio segment based on the language specified in the request; and

(c) means for playing the audio segment.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing stored audio data comprising:

(a) transmitting a request to an audio server for playing stored audio data, the request including an audio identifier identifying a sequence of audio segments to be played and a selector for specifying a member of the sequence of audio segments;

(b) locating, in an audio server database, a sequence of provisioned audio segments corresponding to the audio identifier; and

(c) playing the sequence of audio segments to a recipient to convey a network-related announcement.

60. (Currently Amended) An audio server comprising:

(a) an interface card for receiving a request for playing a sequence of stored audio data segments, the audio data segments comprising at least portions of network-related announcements to be played to a recipient, the sequence of stored audio data segments being identified by an audio identifier;

(b) an audio server database embodied in a memory device storing provisioned sequences of audio data segments; and

(c) a processor programmed to extract a sequence of audio segments from the audio server database using the audio identifier in the request.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dustin Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on flex schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Flynn Nathan can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dustin Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2154

